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The Almagest

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LSU in Shreveport

Volume 29, Number 9

SGA ELECTION RESULTS

Brittany Manson
Almagest

SGA elections were held March 25-29. Did you vote? If you are like most of the student population at LSUS, then you didn't. In the week-long election, only 190 students took ten minutes of their time to vote, which did not make the 500 vote challenge of four SGA members.

Dana Foster, Michael Scales, Scott Wolf, and Justine Reilly promised to shave their heads at Spring Fling if 500 ballots were cast in the election.

There was much controversy surrounding the presidential race because of the attempt to pass an amendment for a reduction of the mandatory GPA from 2.5 to 2.0. The amendment failed, so candidate Dana Foster ran unopposed in that race and he received 166 votes of the 190 cast.

However, there was an interesting race among vice-presidential hopefuls Michael Scales and William Anderson because of

the interpretation of Article III of the SGA constitution which says that a candidate must have no less than a 2.5 at LSUS. But Anderson had a 2.4 here, and there was question whether Scales would run unopposed as well as Foster. Dr. Gloria Raines, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, said that the article is poorly written and Anderson should not be penalized for it, so he was allowed to run against Scales. Scales ended up winning the election with 100 votes of the 190 cast.

Also, in this vote were the elections of two senators from each of the four colleges. In the College of Business, Liesl Boniol won with 16 votes and Nicholas Crafts won with 14 votes.

In the College of Education, Deena Lachland won with 42 votes and Kelley Shaw won with 37 votes.

In the College of Liberal Arts, Bryon Hillman won with 31 votes and Ted McCastlain won with 27 votes.

In the College of Science, Brian Craft won with 46 votes and Johnathan Mayo won with 26 votes.

SGA ELECTION RESULTS

President	Dana Foster
Vice President	Michael Scales
College of Business	Liesl Boniol Nicholas Crafts
College of Liberal Arts	Bryon Hillman Ted McCastlain
College of Education	Deena Lachland Kelley Shaw
College of Science	Brian Craft Johnathan Mayo

Single-Board Higher Ed Plan Withdrawn by Governor Foster

Kirk Dickey
Almagest

The single-board plan that could have restructured Louisiana's higher education system was dropped by Governor Mike Foster Tuesday.

A Foster spokesman said the single-board plan lacked needed legislative support.

According to SGA Vice President Scott Wolf, the plan also lacked support at LSU-S. The SGA passed a bill Tuesday in opposition to the plan. Wolf was to have taken the bill to Baton Rouge to lobby against it.

The Senate Education Committee approved the controversial plan the week before last. The full Senate was to have voted on the bill this week and if it had passed, it would have moved on to the House of Representatives in the next couple of weeks.

"It is going to have a tough fight

in the House," Chancellor Vince Marsala had said before the governor's action. "Particularly with the Southern systems opposed to it." Marsala said that the plan's legislative fate seemed uncertain, but if this plan would have passed, it might have been beneficial for LSUS.

Under the current structure of three supervisory boards which answer to the Board of Regents, LSU-S receives about 8.9 million dollars per year in state appropriations. This new plan would have put all of Louisiana's colleges under the control of one board, the Board of Governors. The amount of funding given to these colleges would have been based on the level of education that each university provides.

The governor's spokesman said Foster still intends to improve the funding of higher education.



From L-R; Greg Christopher, SPJ executive director; Steve Geimann, SPJ national president-elect presenting the LSUS student chapter; Suzzanne Bright, president of the Shreveport pro chapter; Rita Uotila, vice-president of the LSUS student chapter, and Frank May, editorial page editor of The Times and immediate past president of the Shreveport pro chapter. While president, May guided LSUS chapter from its beginning to its chartering.

Science Faculty Acquire Grant for Innovative Teaching

Kurt Milton Pickett
Almagest

LSUS was recently awarded \$75,000 from the National Science Foundation and the Louisiana Board of Regents for a new, interdisciplinary approach to teaching science. The grant, written by Mathematics Professor Dr. Judith Covington and Chemistry Professor Dr. Wayne Gustavson, which calls for "the long-term sustainability and institutionalization of reforms on Louisiana campuses," is designed to teach elementary and middle school science educators and students of science education how to teach science more effectively.

Covington and Gustavson's grant was funded along with thirteen other National Science Foundation proposals from a pool of fifteen. From that pool, thirteen of the applications were continuation grants, while two, including LSUS's, were first year grants. LSUS's grant was the only first year grant that was funded.

What makes this grant proposal so unique is that it focuses on teaching all of the sciences in an integrated fashion. The new course will teach astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics and will focus on how the fields are connected.

LSUS's current curriculum for education majors requires students to take six hours of biology and three hours of physical science, and Dr. Covington says that's not enough. "Teaching biology and physical science alone doesn't show the integration of science. Elementary teachers don't teach biology, chemistry, or earth science—they just teach science. Our program shows elementary education majors a method of teaching science that they can use in the classroom," said Covington.

Covington and Gustavson's program was funded at an oppor-

tune time for LSUS's education majors. LSUS's education curriculum will soon be changing, and the new curriculum requires education majors to take fifteen hours of science credit. Covington and Gustavson's new program, a component of the Louisiana Collaborative for Excellence in the Preparation of Teachers (LaCEPT), will offer students twelve of those fifteen hours in one course. The new course will span three semesters, for a total of twelve credit hours. The course will be taught for six hours a week in two, three-hour classes.

Because the grant was funded in the middle of the intended program year, 1996, the course was assigned a temporary name and temporary course numbers—Physical Science 106 and 106L. Unfortunately, another science course, Environmental Chemistry, is already assigned that number. Until the LSU system assigns the new course a new number, the two courses will share the same course number. "We had to choose a number and a name as an interim measure," said Dr. Sharelle Campbell, one of the professors who has been involved in the program's implementation.

In addition to Campbell, Drs. Stephanie Aamodt, Beverly Burden, Steven Lynch, and Cynthia Sisson have helped organize the program design. Lynch and Gustavson will teach the pilot of Physical Science 106 and 106L in the fall.

In addition to the \$75,000 grant award, three enrolled students will receive a \$3,600 stipend on a competitive basis for the summer and fall semesters of 1996, and the spring semester of 1997.

Covington stated that the program's "intent is to bring minorities into education."



Math Professor Dr. Judith Covington

"Teaching Biology and Science alone does not show the integration of science." -Dr. Judith Covington

What is Energy?

LSUS answers in novel, yet historical manner

Kurt Milton Pickett
Almagest

Dr. Cynthia Sisson, an LSUS Professor of Physics, says, "Energy is the ability to do work—that is, the ability to exert a force over a distance."

Dr. Wayne Gustavson, an LSUS Chemistry Professor, stated that "Energy is what makes things go. It includes light, chemicals, heat, sound, and electricity."

LSUS Biology Professors Drs. Beverly Burden and Steven Lynch agree that, "Life is organized energy."

None of these PhD's have a definition of energy in common. But what they do share is a philosophy of teaching science: Every individual field of science offers perhaps only a small slice of the whole scientific picture, but when scientific topics (such as the definition of energy) are discussed using knowledge from every branch of science, the whole becomes much more apparent. As a result of their beliefs about learning science, each of these professors, in conjunction with Drs. Stephanie Aamodt, Sharelle Campbell, and Judith Covington, is engaged in the design of a new, interdisciplinary approach to teaching science to education majors.

The project, funded by a National Science Foundation grant written by Drs. Judith Covington and Wayne Gustavson, will offer elementary and middle school education majors a novel approach to science education. The new course, Physical Science 106/106L, will integrate concepts from various science disciplines in an effort to teach a more holistic view of science to science education majors. "When we talk about matter, we'll discuss everything from the atom to the protein," said Burden.

Lynch has observed that, "teachers teach the way they've been taught." And Burden said that the current teaching system "doesn't seem to be working." The current curriculum exposes science education majors to only two scientific disciplines—biology and physical science. In addition, the information is disseminated to the education students mainly through lectures. "Lecturing is not efficient; You only reach about thirty percent of the students," says Burden.

The new course design uses forms of assessment other than simple multiple choice testing, focusing on what Campbell called "inquiry based learning." Lynch said the new program will, "show a phenomenon, present a question, and then make the student answer the question. It will be more cooperative than competitive. Much of it is going to be hands-on—learn by doing."

Although this approach to teaching is uncommon in modern educational efforts, Burden said, "Actually, it goes back to the Socratic Method." The program team hopes that by teaching science in this manner, education students will take a similarly integrationist approach to teaching science in their classrooms.

Do you need a reason to join the Louisiana National Guard?

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Society of Professional Journalists holds convention in Lafayette

Rita Uotila
Almagest

The Society of Professional Journalists biregional convention in Lafayette brought together the pros and students for an action packed weekend during spring break. The two regions cover professionals and student chapters from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Texas, and Western Tennessee. University of Southwestern Louisiana which hosted the convention has the biggest student chapter in the South and tenth largest in the nation.

A highlight for the LSUS group was the presentation of the chapter charter by Steve Geimann, national president-elect. LSUS achieved full student chapter status in 1995; the provisional chapter began in 1993.

The enlightening and interesting convention schedule ran from dawn to dusk. A lot of information and varying topics were amazingly squeezed into 12 hours. The panels concentrated on issues such as using the internet in reporting, high school journalism programs, environmental reporting, and grief interviewing. In addition, sport reporters discussed with Saints coach Jim Mora their relationship and conflicts in covering sports. Furthermore, reporters — turned into writers — discussed the process of a story becoming a book. Also, students were able to get tips for career choices from the pros.

A panel titled "Stepping Stone or Career," focused on small and mid-sized media markets. Representatives from print, radio, and TV gave the pros and cons of small community reporting. Students heard first-hand what professionals look for in an job interview. Even though, majority moves to bigger markets, many prefer working in small towns.

The attendants had a unique opportunity to hear personal reports and experiences from journalists who were caught in the middle of the Oklahoma City bombing. Many of the panelists were at the scene just minutes after the blow, even before they knew what had happened. Reporters talked openly of their anguish in pondering how to report the disaster adequately, but not intrusively. The whole panel gave good guidelines, but more importantly, agreed that decisions needed to be made on a case-to-case basis.

Even in the mist of the hectic weekend, the hosts and Lafayette treated the guests with southern hospitality and Cajun cultural and gastronomic pleasures. Vermilionville, a museum park, gave the visitors a peek inside the Cajun history and culture. Guests also got instructions how to tackle a crawfish, and what a real gumbo should taste like. After soul and body were nurtured, a quick dance lesson sent the visitors floating across the dance floor — in cajun style. Much effort was put into hosting the guests, and the USL student chapter did an excellent job of organizing the convention.



Photo by Rita Uotila

Wilbert Rideau, editor of the Angolite - inmate magazine of Louisiana State Penitentiary - spoke at the SPJ luncheon of his 20 year self-made career as a journalist and advocate of the First Amendment. With his determination Rideau has contributed in turning one of the nations bloodiest penitentiaries into one of the safest.

Use of "Staff" Minimal in Schedules

Kirk Dickey
Almagest

The faculty and Faculty Senate of LSUS have decided to limit the use of the word "staff" in future class registration schedules. On the recommendation of the SGA, the Faculty Senate and deans of all the colleges resolved to keep the use of the word to a minimum from now on.

At the Dec. 5 meeting of the SGA, the student senate passed a bill to recommend that "the word 'staff' be removed from all class schedules beginning with the class schedule in the Summer of 1996." They proposed that "staff" be replaced by the name of the professor teaching each class. According to Michael Scales, senator-at-large, the vote on the bill was overwhelming in favor of it.

Ted McCastlain, who wrote the bill, said this bill came out of concern for the student body. "People just kept telling me that the 'staff' scheduling had just become annoying," McCastlain said. According to McCastlain past schedules forced students to take a chance if the only class that they could schedule was listed as "staff," instead of a professor's name.

The bill goes to point out that the students have the right to know who will teach them. This helps avoid personality con-

licts with the teacher and allows students to schedule teachers whose teaching methods best suit them.

The Deans' Council discussed the bill at the meeting in early January. It was discussed that keeping the word "staff" to a minimum in registration schedules would be the best course of action. Later in the month the Faculty Senate considered the matter at one of its meetings. They passed a resolution "expressing support of the Student Senate bill."

According to a memo from Acting Provost Stuart Mills, "There were 47 sections listed as 'staff' out of 734 section listed on the [1996 spring class schedule]. The Fall schedule will have a greater [number] of 'staff' sections, because of uncertainties of the Fall enrollments and faculty staffing."

Mills went on to commend the deans and chairs for a good job in building class schedules, but asked them "to use 'staff' only when absolutely necessary." Mills said, "It is in the best interest of all of us (students, faculty, and administrators) to provide as much information as possible about who is teaching each section which appears on the class schedule."

LSUS Debaters Claim High Honors

Leisl Boniol
Almagest

During the a tournament, sponsored by Louisiana Intercollegiate Forensics Association, held March 15-16, LSUS claimed First Place in the Debate Sweepstakes. Eleven universities from around the state competed including: LSU-Baton Rouge, Xavier, Louisiana Tech, LSU-Alexandria, Northeast Louisiana, Louisiana College, Centenary College and the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

LSUS received more wins than any of the 11 competing schools in novice CEDA debate, Lincoln-Douglas(one-on-one) debate and the newly developed Parliamentary debate. LSUS claimed First Place speaker awards in all three of these debate divisions.

Joe Washington and Paul Drasutis took first and second place respectively in novice debate. Stephen Dreffit was named First Place Lincoln-Douglas debater. Jimmy Rubio received 1st Place Parliamentary debate speaker award. Parliamentary debaters Cheryl Salter and Marcelette Ashley were awarded third and fourth Place speaker awards, respectively.

The LSUS squad did well in a number of individual speaking events. For the third consecutive year, Jimmy Rubio was named First Place Persuasive Speaker. He will represent the state of Louisiana at the Interstate Oratory Association competition in Lincoln, Nebraska this April. He also received first place in Thematic Dramatic Interpretation and with partner, Jennifer Edwards, took 1st Place in Duo Dramatic Interpretation. Edwards was also a finalist in the Prose Interpretation event. Team members Laura Osborne and Brock Raybon were finalists in the Informative Speaking event. Krefft was a finalist in Extemporaneous Speaking. Because of the overall performance of the squad in these individual events, LSUS received the Second Place Team Individual Events award and the Second Place Tournament Trophy. McNeese State University received the 1st Place Tournament Trophy.

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The Almagest

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Do You Know Senator Who?

Do you know who Nicholas Crafts is? Ted McCastlain? What about Dana Foster or Micheal Scales? Don't worry if you don't, neither do most of LSU-S students.

I'll tell you who they are. Crafts is one of the two elected senators for the College of Business. McCastlain is one of the two elected senators for the College of Liberal Arts, elected for his second term. Foster is our new president, of SGA that is, and Scales is our new SGA vice president.

Because I deal with some of these people with the Almagest, I know who some of them are. Most of us don't have any idea who most of these people are. I'm learning it is a good idea to find out.

Our Student Government Association represents us. If we do not know who they are, we cannot contact them to let them know how we feel about certain issues. I'm just as guilty as the next student.

LSU-S is not like other universities, however. A majority of students have very busy lives (families, work, etc.) and do not feel the need to become involved in campus politics, but maybe we should take a second look.

Did you know the SGA was awarded approximately \$12,700 for their budget for the 1994-95 semesters? Did you know almost \$4,000 was left over and added to this year's budget of \$12,340? Some of this money will be used to send a student lobbyist to Baton Rouge. How is the rest of this money spent? Shouldn't we have a say about where our school's money is going? If a student lobbyist is going to our state capital, shouldn't we push the issues that are important to all of us.

Did you know the SGA has influenced the Faculty Senate in changing some items on the registration schedule, continuing the summer commencement program and extending library hours? What other issues are important to you and me that we could push through the SGA, our representatives?

With all this in mind, did you know only 190 of about 4,000 enrolled students voted in this semester's SGA elections? One senator was elected with as few as 14 votes. Only one person would have had to have voted for our newly elected SGA President Foster, he was unopposed.

Did you know our unopposed SGA president receives a full scholarship? So does the vice president who was contested by only one other candidate, Michael Anderson.

Did you know you could vote by phone?

Now, do you know if you will vote next time?

Shelly Cole
Editor

Letters Policy

The Almagest requests your reactions through Letters to the Editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your class and major field of study. Letters should be submitted to The Almagest office, BH 344, by noon on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed. The Almagest

Athletes are Role Models, Like It or Not



David Eleuterius
Columnist

(Forget everything else: 350-pound Cecil Fielder, known for the long ball rather than speed, actually stole a base.)

Imagine playing professional sports for a living: to play out every little kid's dream scenario of playing for their favorite franchises. Almost everyone who follows sports has at one time or another wished that they could step onto the field or court just one more time. To feel the exhilaration of making a big play, and feeling the stadium rocking because of what you did. For most of us, this is a dream that will never be realized, but only experienced vicariously through the teams that we, as fans, follow.

I remember how I looked up to those players, how I thought that those players were somehow bigger than life. They weren't just players on a team, but people that I identified with, celebrating their victories and sharing the bitter taste of defeat. I wanted to be just like them.

I feel sorry for the young fans today.

Some athletes seem to believe that playing sports is their God-given birthright. That because they can run faster and jump higher than most accords them the right to act however they want. These are people who earn more in a season than some people might earn in a lifetime. But some have forgotten that it's the fans, and not the players, that make the heart and soul of any league. Several recent instances come to mind.

The former Chris Jackson, a standout at LSU, recently caused a big flap because he refused to "assume a respectful posture" (as the NBA dictates) during the national anthem. His reasoning? The American flag stands for oppression and tyranny. OK, Abdul-Rauf, how oppressed can you possibly be making \$2.5 million a year? If you hate this tyrannical country so much, why don't you just leave? See if you can pull down those kind of bucks in a far more enlightened land where women are shrouded in veils and not allowed to participate in society.

A few weeks ago, Philadelphia rookie guard Jerry Stackhouse attacked Utah

Jazz guard Jeff Hornacek as Hornacek went in for a lay-up. Nothing warranted this outburst; Stackhouse simply went berserk, pummeling the retreating Hornacek in the head repeatedly until the referees could step in and break it up. Up until that bizarre outburst, he had been considered the favorite for the NBA rookie of the year. Hey kids, if you can't beat 'em, beat 'em up.

The Chicago Bulls' loose cannon, Dennis Rodman, was slapped with the harshest penalty in NBA history after head-butting a referee. The cost? Six games, which with the fines cost Mr. Rodman over \$200,000. Ouch, I bet that really hurt. He loses about that much in 15 minutes at the Vegas casinos. Rodman, with his third team in three seasons, endeared himself to San Antonio fans last season by taking off his shoes and walking away from the huddle during timeouts. Kudos to Dennis for teaching the kids how to be team players.

Byron "Bam" Morris, fullback for the AFC champion Pittsburgh Steelers, was pulled over in Texas with six pounds of marijuana in the trunk of his Mercedes-Benz and just over a gram of cocaine in the ashtray. His playing career at this point appears to be up in smoke.

And finally, we have Michael Irvin, who was indicted on charges of possession of cocaine and marijuana. If convicted, Mr. Irvin could spend up to 20 years in prison. My prediction? A slap-on-the-wrist fine (at most \$10,000) and 5 years of probation. Mr. Irvin, whose behavior was at best questionable, continues right where he left off from his post-Super Bowl speech, which was so obscenity-laden that his own mother apologized to the national media (saying that she never taught him to speak that way). Way to go, Michael. Maybe you should change your nickname to "Linemaker" instead of "Playmaker."

I realize that there are positive examples out there, such as A.C. Green of the Phoenix Suns, Cal Ripken, Jr. of the Baltimore Orioles and John Wallace of Syracuse, who actually STAYED IN SCHOOL (imagine that!) his senior year to earn his degree. These are the kinds of players that should be held up as examples to the kids, but they rarely command the headlines that athletes embroiled in the midst of scandal do. The media is partly responsible one could say. However, the media is simply reporting the facts. The true onus lies with the players. It is a true tribute to America that they could earn the kind of money they do playing children's games. However, one would think that with that money would come respect for the game, the fans and themselves. Like it or not, these athletes are adored by millions of kids, and to step on that kind of innocent trust that only children are capable of is simply inexcusable.

Gay Marriage: In Search of Heterosexual Privilege



Kurt Milton Pickett
Columnist

With all of the ills facing the American gay and lesbian community (a short list: at least one out of three gay men have HIV—a highly conservative estimate; two out of three gay men and lesbians are drug addicts; one in three gay and lesbian teens commit suicide; lesbians are six times more likely to get breast cancer than non-lesbian women), you would think that we would rally around more important issues than we typically do.

In 1993, the battle cry was "Gays in the Military, Now!" I had serious problems with this for many reasons, not the least of which is that gay is not a noun. Yes—of course—I think that anyone should be allowed to serve in the military. But except for the rape and physical abuse of lesbians and gay men (that also occurs with at least as much frequency in civilian culture), I have yet to hear a solid argument why this issue should take precedence over demanding that national breast cancer organizations start talking about lesbian breast cancer instead of saying "seventy percent of women with breast cancer have no risk factor"—or why boot camp is more important than the yet-to-come reasonable, consistent, medical response to AIDS. "Gays in the Military" exhausted thousands of activists in 1993, and it won us nothing. Even if the gay and lesbian community had succeeded, the net gain towards dealing with our community's problems would have been infantilism.

Now, since two young men entered a Hawaiian courthouse in 1993, demanding that they be given a marriage license because it is "they're right," and since the Supreme Court accepted the case in 1995, my community is again ignoring its logical and obvious priorities.

I do not, however, oppose State-endorsed gay marriage merely because there are more pressing matters at hand

(although, this reason alone is sufficient). I oppose it for many reasons—all of which stem from two quite obvious truths: Marriage is inherently heterosexual and oppressive.

Nowhere in literature or art-history can exclusive same-sex, adult unions be found. You can find men having sex with men (who also have sex with women); you can find men having sex with boys; you can find women having sex with women; but you cannot find either man or woman engaging in exclusive, monogamous, marriage-like same-sex unions. This behavior is not a part of our culture. I see no reason why we must emulate something we are not in order to feel justified. Our culture is unique and equivalent.

I would say that marriage is not a part of our nature, but that is manifest. *Marriage is not a part of any human's nature.* It is completely constructed and excessively patriarchal. But most unjustly, it is oppressive to non-married people. If I am a heterosexual man (or a gay man for that matter) who is unmarried, why do I pay more taxes than my married neighbor? Why do I not get insurance deductions and loans from banks as easily. More importantly though, why is my married neighbor granted these privileges? If marriage is the natural pinnacle of human relations, then why must our government spend billions of dollars a year attempting to make it more attractive to a presumably willing populace? And why, with all of these glowing incentives, is the construction crumbling—boasting a miserable fifty percent success rate in good years.

There are no adequate answers to these questions; I've been asking them for years. The gay community has no business involving itself in a scheme as diabolical and archaic as marriage. It is unjust to women (married or not), and it is unjust to all people who choose (for whatever reason) not to get married. Let me be clear: I have no argument for two individuals who choose to live together in a loving relationship (sexual or otherwise); what I question is why the government must endorse and finance the venture at the single person's financial and social expense.

Legal marriage is the epitome of the bourgeois, patriarchal establishment. The gay community should be leading the way out of this social ill, not endorsing it so that it's members can reap the financial advantages of being a heterosexual.

We should be fighting the fact that heterosexuals are granted these privileges, not co-opting it.

Another Choice

Byron Reeves
Guest Columnist

Here it is 1996 and presidential elections will be upon us again. It looks like The Big Race will put Bill Clinton against Bob Dole this November. Ross Perot may even make another appearance. Joining them will be either Irwin Schiff, Douglas Ohmen, Rick Tompkins, or Harry Browne.

Who are these other guys, you're probably thinking about right now.

The answer is they're nominees for the Libertarian Party's candidate for president.

What is Libertarian Party, you're thinking now.

Despite what many may think, the Democrats and the Republicans are not the only political parties in the United States. The Libertarian party, although little known, is nevertheless the third largest party in the U.S.

The L.P. was created in 1971 by members of both of the major political parties, who broke away from their colleagues in response to then-President Richard Nixon's policies, primarily the wage, price and rent controls. These "renegades" formed a new political party which they hoped would represent the intentions of the founding fathers.

The Libertarian Party was born.

This party strives for a smaller and less intrusive government, through greater personal liberty but greater personal responsibility.

Chris Williams, national spokesman for the Libertarian Party, said that Americans "should be able to do whatever they want, as long as it doesn't infringe on the rights of others. This is the primary message of the L.P."

"Nothing wrong with that," I replied.

I asked him if he could tell me why the L.P. has not made any significant head way, as far as broad national recognition.

Williams replied that the "present unfair ballot laws" make it difficult for third party candidates to gain access onto ballots, chiefly because any campaign requires tremendous amounts of money.

Anyone remember how much Ross Perot spent last time?

It would seem that elections are being bought, not won. The groovy guy of our choice always seems to be the one who laid out the most cash.

Is this the way to elect a president? (or any other public official?)

On Feb. 23, LPB aired *A Third Choice*, a program which followed the history of the third party candidates throughout the history of the U.S. This program documented the beginnings of political parties, and the impact of third parties upon presidential elections. The most famous third party candidate was the great emancipator, Abe Lincoln.

"But I thought he was a Republican?," you may well be thinking. Well, right you are. But, the Republican Party was a third party at that time.

Williams was furious when I told him about the content of *The Third Choice*. This program examined the candidacies

of Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Eugene Debs and various others. However, almost a third of the air time was devoted to Perot's 1992 bid for the White House, and not even the word libertarian was mentioned, much less the existence of the Libertarian Party. In the interest of objectivity, I too felt that this was not fair. Perhaps libertarian sounds too much like liberal, and the word liberal seems to strike fear in so many.

As a free nation, isn't it our duty to at least explore the possibility of other options? The L.P. has ideas which some may consider too daring. Legalization of drugs has been a mainstay of the L.P.'s platform; the reasoning being that prohibition of alcohol did little to eradicate consumption. Prohibition did increase the criminal element. How is it the "War on Drugs" any different? Responsibility for one's actions is the point.

The L.P. holds a similar stance on gun ownership.

Williams stated that the L.P. is "opposed to gun control, period."

"People should be held accountable for their actions. If someone wants to own a gun, fine. But he/she should know what responsibilities that entails," Williams said.

The views of the L.P. are considered radical, so it's not surprising that radio celebrity Howard Stern was endorsed by the L.P. as their candidate in the most recent gubernatorial race in New York state. Stern lost, but the fact that a high-profile celebrity such as Stern garnered an impressive number of votes helped the L.P. some of the recognition it so desperately needs.

Which is why I write this.

For too long, the presidential race (and so many other races for public office) has been a matter of voters choosing the lesser of two evils. The lesser of two evils is still evil.

If the U.S. voters could put a virtually unknown third party candidate into the White House (Lincoln, who's to say that the same result could not be achieved today? All I ask is that you, dear reader, at least consider what the L.P. has to offer. At the very least, a strong turnout for a third party candidate would cause some nervousness on the part of the "big guys." Look at what Perot did for the last election. Maybe then the dominant two parties would try a little harder to please the electorate.

If you have read this far, then maybe an alternative to the present system appeals to you. A free information kit is available which explains the basic philosophy and platform of the L.P. Libertarian national headquarters can be reached at 1-800-682-1776. The L.P. of Louisiana can be reached at 1-800-264-6791. Or you can speak to a political science professor at LSUS or the university of your choice.

The L.P. holds its national convention in Washington, D.C., on July 4, where one of the men mentioned in the opening paragraph hopes to gain more ground than ever before.

Are you ready for a change?

Want good resume Material? Want to improve your writing skills? Want to know what's happening on campus?

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SPORTS

Second II None takes Championship

Brian Allen
Almagest

For the team known as Second II None, spring break provided not only a respite from classroom duties but an opportunity to bask in the glow of an intramural basketball title.

LSUS' supreme team played flawless basketball throughout the tournament, culminating in a 80 - 67 dismantling of Click in the championship game. The contest was close early, but Click faltered after tying the game at 16. From that point on, Second II None never trailed as they built a 42 - 27 halftime lead.

Things got no better for Click as Chad McDowell revved the championship engine, putting up 34 points in his final competitive basketball game at LSUS. McDowell's performance showed he hasn't lost a step since playing four years of Pilot basketball. His name has appeared on this sports page too many times to

mention, and he made certain to end his LSUS basketball career with an exclamation point. Rules for the state tournament are stricter than our own intramural rules, so players like Second II None's McDowell and Derrick Greene cannot represent their teams at state.

Click missed key rebounds and didn't play good defense in a performance that scarcely resembled their regular season play. The ever controversial Herb Jones was reinstated from a season-ending suspension just in time to play in this game but his return simply wasn't enough to stop the inevitable. Jones summed up the game's outcome like this:

"Our style of play was like hamburger. Second II None was like hamburger with cheese, which means it was good."

His sense of humor was undaunted, but his disappointment was evident. The two teams met at midcourt to shake hands, and the celebration kicked into high gear for the champions. Team cap-

tain Steve Burnside said his first taste of a championship was a long time coming:

"I've been to four finals, and this time I finally won one."

Burnside had told anyone who would listen this was Second II None's tournament, and the team's play turned his brag into fact. Second II None went through the double elimination bracket without a single loss, stomping their competition senseless en route to their well-deserved title. They dedicate this title to Todd Sanders, the team's founder, who has since graduated and moved to Dallas. His former teammates kept him aware of their progress by faxing him copies of *The Almagest* sports page. McDowell said Sanders was prevalent in the team's mindset throughout the season. Call it a farewell gift to a friend, call it the extra cheese on a Whopper, but whatever you call it, call Second II None the champions.

Second II None

Steve Burnside
(Team Captain)

John Foster
Keith Cockerham
Chad McDowell
Derrick Greene
Clay Fowler
Chris Berry
Bill Wood

1996 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME	GAMES
MARCH				
20	Jarvis Christian	LSUS	1:00 pm	2-7
21	Tabor College	LSUS	2:00 pm	1-9
28	Mount Senario	LSUS	1:00 pm	2-7
30	Lyon College	LSUS	2:00 pm	2-7
APRIL				
1	Loyola--New Orleans	LSUS	1:00 pm	2-7
4	University of Mobile	Mobile, AL	1:00 pm	2-7
11	Louisiana College	LSUS	1:00 pm	2-7
14	Loyola--New Orleans	New Orleans, LA	1:00 pm	2-7
17	East Texas Baptist U	LSUS	1:00 pm	2-7
22	Louisiana College	Pineville, LA	4:00 pm	2-7
24	LeTourneau U	LSUS	1:00 pm	2-7
26	Dallas Baptist U	Dallas, TX	4:00 pm	2-7
27	Dallas Baptist U	Dallas, TX	1:00 pm	2-7

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Campus Organizations

BAPTIST STUDENT UNION
Activities: Bible studies, discipleships, groups, mission action
Meets: 11:00 and 12:00 p.m. Wed. and Thurs. at 7 p.m.
Contact: Skip Noble, 797-1946

S'PORT/BOSSIER CAMPUS MINISTRY
Meets: Thurs. 10:30 a.m. in UC
Activities: Weekly devotionals, socials, service projects, retreats.
Contact: Dr. Mary Ann Shaw, 797-1946

ENGLISH CLUB
Meets: 2nd Tues. each month
Activities: Annual Book Fair, poetry readings, faculty presentations, socials.
Contact: Tom Dubose, 797-5228

LOUISIANA ASSC. OF EDUCATORS
Meets: Once a month
Activities: Student teacher reception, Mathmagic presented at Stoner Hill Elementary
Contact: Cindy Olson, 797-5032

PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENTS SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Meets: Twice monthly
Activities: Volunteer work, contacts with PRSA, active campus activities, seminars and workshops
Contact: Kathy Smith, 798-0049

GOLDEN Z CLUB
Activities: Projects focusing on illiteracy, the environment, scholarships available.
Meets: 2nd and 4th Tues. each month
Contact: Anita Harkness, 797-1946

SPJ-LSUS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST
Activities: Guest Speakers on topics related to the field of Journalism., social functions.
Contact: Michelle Milhollen, 746-7860

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLUB
Meets: 1st and 3rd Tues. ea. month
Activities: Annual book fair, poetry readings, faculty presentations, socials.
Contact: Joe Patrick, 797-5390

MBA ASSOCIATION
Meets: Once a month
Activities: Seminars with guest speakers on career planning and resume writing, social activities
Contact: Director of Graduate Studies, College of Business 797-

SOCIETY OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Meets: 1st & 3rd Tues. each month
Activities: Seminars, guest speaker luncheon at the University Club, Membership Prog.
Contact: Gwen Smith, 797-5024 & Dr. Vassar, 797-5020

MAINSTREAM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Meets: Tues. and Thurs. 10:30 a.m.
Activities: Outdoor concerts, weekend fellowships and trips, volunteer work.
Contact: Lori Bennet, 797-1946

ACJS/ LAMDA ALPHA EPSILON
Meets: 1st and 3rd Thurs. each month
Activities: Various community activities, speakers on Law enforcement ops.
Contact: Richard Georgia, 797-5078

GOVERNMENT & LAW SOCIETY
Meets: Once a month
Activities: speakers & debates, etc.
Contact: Prof. William D. Pederson 797-5351

CHEMISTRY CLUB
Meets: 10:30 a.m. 1st Thurs. ea. month
Activities: Group activities
Contact: Dr. Wayne Gustavson, 797-5091

STUDENT COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
Meets: 1st and 3rd Fri. monthly
Activities: Service proj. involving handicapped children
Contact: Dr. Alan Thompson & Joe Patrick, 797-5390

RANGERS
Meets: TBA
Activities: Realistic combat training, social activities.
Contact: SFC Perry Buchanan, 797-1946

DRAMA CLUB
Meets: Tues., Thurs. 10:30 a.m. BH330
Activities: Dramatic productions, 1st hand info on auditions in local prod., volunteer work.
Contact: Jorgi Jarzabek, 797-5228

HEALTH & PHYS. ED. CLUB
Meets: Tues. or Thurs. 10:30
Activities: "Almost Anything Goes" for LSUS, judge field days for elementary's
Contact: maxie foster, 797-7294

PHI SIGMA EPSILON, MKT & MNGMT
Meets: 2nd & 4th Tue. monthly 10:30
Activities: Conduct sales and mkt. projects for local businesses, social functions
Contact: Ms. Gayle Norton 797-5628

ROTORAC
Meets: Two meetings per month
Activities: Student service org. One service project per semester, luncheons
Contact: Dr. Paul Merkle, 797-5240

LSUS CAMPUS MINISTRY

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For more information contact:

Dan Fultz 869-5024

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Campus Calendar

April 11-12	Spring Fling
	Blood Drive, UC Mall
April 11	Recycling Drive
	Pilots Game, 1 p.m.
April 12	Pizza Eating Contest
April 30	Crawfish Boil, UC Mall
May 1	Last Day to Early Register